

Claims

1. A system for transmitting an image file to an end user system, comprising compression software for compressing the image file into different file formats, and test software configured to test the downloading speed capabilities of the end user system on line and in real time as the system prepares to transmit the compressed file, said system configured to send the compressed file in one file format if the downloading speed of the end user system is slower than a predetermined minimum level and to send the compressed file in another file format if the downloading speed of the end user system is faster than the predetermined minimum level.
2. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein said system has an default file format if the downloading speed of the end user system is faster than the predetermined level, and said system is configured to further test the end user system for one or more predetermined file player modules if the downloading speed of the end user system is faster than the predetermined level, said system being further configured to transmit the compressed file in the default file format if the system determines that the system downloading speed is faster than the predetermined speed but the end user system does not have any of the predetermined file player modules.
3. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein said test software comprises a test file having a known size, and a software module that starts a timer and downloads the test file on the user system, said software module being configured to determine the end user system speed required to download the test file to determine the downloading speed of the end user system.
4. A system for transmitting an image file to an end user system, comprising a test device configured to test the downloading speed of the end user system on line and in real time as the system prepares to transmit the image file; and said system configured to send the image file in one format if the downloading speed of the end user system is at or slower than a predetermined speed and in another format if the downloading speed of the end user system is faster than the predetermined speed.

10003695.102501

5. A system for transmitting an image file on line to an end user system, comprising a test device configured to test the downloading speed of the end user system on line and in real time as the system prepares to transmit the image file; and said system configured to send the image file in one size file if the downloading speed of the end user system is at or slower than a predetermined speed and in another size file if the downloading speed of the end user system is faster than the predetermined speed.

6. A method for transmitting an image file on line to an end user system, comprising the steps of testing the end user system in real time and on line to determine if the end user system can play an image file in a predetermined file format, further testing the downloading speed of the end user system and transmitting the image file in the predetermined format if the on line test determines the end user system has a minimum predetermined downloading speed and can play the image file in the predetermined format, and transmitting the image file in an alternative format if the on line test determines the user system cannot play the image file in the predetermined file format.

7. A method for transmitting an image file on line to an end user system, comprising the steps of testing the end user system in real time and on line to determine if the end user system can play an image file in a predetermined file format, if the on line test determines the end user system can play the image file in the predetermined format, further testing the end user system on line and in real time to determine the downloading speed of the end user system and also if the end user system has one or more selected types of players for the image file, and transmitting the image file in a file format which is compatible with a selected player if the further testing determines the end user system has a minimum downloading speed and the selected player.

8. A method for transmitting an image file on line to an end user system, comprising the steps of testing the end user system in real time and on line to determine if the end user system can play an image file in a predetermined file format, if the on line test determines the end user system can play the image file in the predetermined format further testing the end user system on line and in real time to determine the downloading speed of the end user system and also if the end user system has one or more selected types of players for the image file, and transmitting the image file in a file format and in a file size which is

8 compatible with a selected player if the further testing determines the end user system has
9 a minimum downloading speed and the selected player.

1 9. A method as defined in any of claims 6 through 8, wherein said image file comprises a
2 motion picture file.

1 10. A system as defined in any of claims 1 through 5, wherein said image file comprises a
2 motion picture file.

10003895-102501